

Small Group Discussion Questions Chesterfield County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- Strong Partnership
- businesses support programs and scholarships
- first steps
- faith based after school programs
- homework centers at churches and Boys and Girls club and YMCA
- libraries provide computer access
- CCCC
- Family literacy program- especially Hispanic families
- Special programs for parents
- Strong in school volunteer program
- Strong mentoring program especially in primary and elementary school
- Strong school to work transition
- 9th grade academy at Cheraw High
- open house to community in schools
- partnership with head start-transition
- shared professional education
- training to retain educators
- certify in critical needs
- meeting between school district and college (EEDA-dual enrollment
- coordination council-interagency articulation
- parent involvement in schools
- working with different stakeholders-faith communities-making aware
- press relations with media
- articulation with service organizations
- career specialists in middle and high schools
- plan town hall meetings with business and industry leaders
- building program
- YMCA after school care
- First steps resource center (NETC)
- Area county libraries
- Adult education expansion to attendance areas (RSFRC)
- Hi tech transition program
- Training for “new mentor” guidelines
- Opening school facilities for community use during non- school hours
- Financially support teachers

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Need for quality local training
- Clear line of communication between parents, educators, and other stakeholders
- Terminology issue
- funds
- not valuing education
- high poverty rate
- standard demographics
- rural problems with eco of scale
- highly qualified teachers
- fear from parents to be involved
- social economic differences
- less appreciation for necessity of education
- lack of technology in homes and schools
- Geography of county
- Stringent rules and responsibility that need flexibility
- Unfunded mandates
- Geographic and isolation
- Educational background of community
- Varying needs across attendance areas
- High poverty rate
- Retention of teachers and administration

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Improve communication
- Funding that leads to learning
- Formalize partnerships so they last longer than personality
- Make school more the center of the community
- Help parents not be intimidated
- Involve arts
- Adult education community build facilities to share near or in schools
- Alternative means of recruiting and retaining quality teachers
- Communication between all parties
- Lobbying for the needs of our community
- Seek and pursue alternative sources of funding (grants, etc.)
- Gain clarity of our own common ground.
- Better utilize current resources
- Improved communication with community (support)
- Maximize academic potential of every student

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Take responsibility
- Become more involved